

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6195

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AEC GERMANTOWN 1037

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 7442

EO11652 GDS

TAGS: TECH,EEC

SUB: EC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON
ENRICHED URANIUM

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 7034

B) COPENHAGEN 3189 (NOTAL)

C) COPENHAGEN 3228 (NOTAL)

D) BONN 18245 (NOTAL)

1. THE STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
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DECEMBER 14-15 EC SUMMIT MEETING AT COPENHAGEN

WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANNEX WHICH DEALT WITH ENERGY (REF B). A PARAGRAPH IN THE ANNEX REFERRED TO A EUROPEAN ENRICHED URANIUM CAPACITY AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE WITH A VIEW TO SECURING THE ENERGY SUPPLIES OF THE COMMUNITY THE COUNCIL WILL ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY. THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE A DIVERSIFICATION OF SUPPLIES BY DEVELOPING EXISTING RESOURCES, ACCELERATING RESEARCH IN NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY AND CREATING NEW CAPACITIES OR PRODUCTION NOTABLY A EUROPEAN CAPACITY FOR ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM, SEEKING THE CONCERTED HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING PROJECTS. END QUOTE.

2. DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ARMANDO BARUFFA, SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY OF THE EC COMMISSION WHO SERVED AS RAPPORTEUR FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT, HE HAS TOLD USTHAT IN THE COMMISSION'S VIEW THE INCLUSION OF THE PARAGRAPH CITED ABOVE IN THE SUMMIT STATEMENT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION (REF A) REGARDING A EUROPEAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY. BARUFFA SAID THAT THE COUNCIL, AS AN INSTITUTION, HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND THAT SPECIFIC COUNCIL APPROVAL REMAINS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO CONFIRM THE GENERAL APPROVAL GIVEN BY THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THIS COMMISSION VIEW WAS REINFORCED BY THE COUNCIL'S INABILITY TO AGREE ON THE SIZE OF THE REGIONAL FUND AFTER THE SUMMIT HAD GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND.

3. BARUFFA INDICATED THE COMMISSION PLANS TO INITIATE DISCUSSION OF ITS ENRICHMENT PROPOSAL IN THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS SO THAT THE PROPOSAL CAN BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL IN EARLY 1974
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TOGETHER WITH OTHER ENERGY MATTERS PURSUANT TO THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT.

4. BARUFFA CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL D THAT FRG CHANCELLER BRANDT HAD INSISTED THAT THE COPENHAGEN STATEMENT NOT INCLUDE WORDING WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR EUROPEAN SOURCES OF ENRICHED

URANIUM ON THE GROUNDS THIS WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE
FOR THE FRG. BARUFFA INTERPRETS THIS REMARK AS
SUGGESTING THAT THE GERMANS WILL OPPOSE, OR AT
LEAST SEEK TO WATER DOWN FURTHER, IN THE DIS-
CUSSIONS NEXT MONTH THE REFERENCE TO A "BUY
EUROPE" PREFERENCE WHICH IS PART OF THE COMMISSION'S
PROPOSAL.GREENWALD

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